

the sense in which it is used), "socio-recreational," "normalcy," and "communalty." But if one disregards such verbal clumsiness, and thinks more of the matter than of the way in which it is presented, one realizes that this is a most valuable volume which will help to keep all students of human sex problems informed of the state of the science in other departments than their own.

JOHN R. BAKER.

A FAMOUS FAMILY

Haldane, General Sir J. Aylmer L., G.C.M.G., K.C.B. *The Haldanes of Gleneagles.* Edinburgh and London, 1929. Blackwood. Unpriced.

SIR AYLMER HALDANE is to be heartily congratulated on this volume; beautifully got up and attractively written, it should interest the general reader more than most family histories, and for eugenists its value is quite exceptional.

Of late there has been a welcome tendency in such histories to pay more attention than formerly to the subject of heredity, but I doubt whether any has previously contained a definite chapter on the heredity of the family, such as the one contributed by Professor John Scott Haldane to this work. It is an excellent innovation, which one hopes may be repeated in the future, though few families indeed will be able to draw from their own ranks a writer with so profound a knowledge of the subject.

In his analysis, Professor Haldane thoroughly examines the question of the respective values of inherited family tradition and strictly biological inheritance, the former, he points out, being the more potent so far as a direct male line is concerned. The Haldanes can be traced back clearly to the fourteenth century, and Sir Aylmer has ascertained at least a few facts about even the most shadowy of these ancestors. But for some 400 years the family, while fully holding its own, attained no real greatness. Inherited tradition kept them well up in the world, but their intermarriages with Scot-

tish families of their own general type did not suffice to produce outstanding eminence. It may be mentioned, however, that one of these marriages connected the family with the Napiers of Merchiston, and the fact that the late Lord Haldane was related, however remotely, to the great inventor of logarithms is at any rate worth putting on record.

It is, however, the final period of the history of the male line which shows most clearly the advantages of eugenic marriages. In the middle of the eighteenth century James Haldane married Katharine Duncan, sister of the great admiral of Camperdown fame. Their sons Robert and James Alexander Haldane, who first of the family are to be found in *D.N.B.*, achieved a reputation as evangelical preachers, surprising in view of the wholly secular activities of their ancestors; but as Professor Haldane points out, they exhibited in this capacity exactly those qualities of determination and tenacity which, in quite different fields of endeavour, can be traced down the whole line. James Alexander Haldane in his turn married a niece of Sir Ralph Abercromby, the best-known member of an accomplished family. Their children, though able, did not attain any special distinction, but one of them, Robert Haldane, took to wife Elizabeth Burdon-Sanderson, great niece of Lords Eldon and Stowell, daughter of a very learned scholar, and sister of a great scientist. From this marriage sprang the late Lord Haldane, Professor John Scott Haldane, Sir William Haldane, and Miss Elizabeth Haldane, whose dominating qualities have quite unquestionably been intellectual, though, as his brother remarks, dogged tenacity is at least as much exemplified in Lord Haldane's career. A succeeding generation has, moreover, already shown that intellectual qualities are far indeed from having become extinct.

The branch to which the late Bishop of Argyll belonged shared both the Duncan and Abercromby descent, while the distinguished soldier who is the author of this book has, in addition to the Duncan, a most interesting descent from the Rutherford

family, bringing in a relationship to Sir Walter Scott, with whom he evidently shares a thorough appreciation of the romance of the past.

All the later Haldanes who have achieved distinction can in fact show ancestors, direct or collateral, of the most remarkable note, and, as might be expected, their own activities have extended over a remarkably wide range. In this connection it is perhaps not uninteresting to observe that, as in the cases of many other families of varied note, skill in cricket appears among the Haldane relatives, two descendants in female lines, Lord Somers and Lord Hyde, having played in the Charterhouse and Eton elevens respectively.

As already remarked, the records of the Haldanes up to the eighteenth century do not differ materially from those of many other Scottish families who have since in

the male line achieved but little distinction. A succession of subsequent intermarriages such as theirs has, however, been rare indeed.

"Bella gerunt alii, te, felix Austria, nube." The historic Austrian marriages brought prosperity of a kind and for a time, but scarcely happiness, and certainly no eugenic value; the marriages set out in this volume brought prosperity, happiness, and enrichment to the world. A saying of a wise old lady of the eighteenth century, herself Scottish, sums up much of the matter. "In your choice of a wife first seek God's direction, which only can keep you from erring; next seek her out of a good family and a good mother, which we reckon still a good Scots mark for a good wife. Let not money be your only care: a good woman will soon make up her tocher."

W. T. J. GUN.

SHORTER NOTICES

Balfour, Margaret L., C.B.E., M.B., C.M., and Young, Ruth, M.B.E., B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B.
The Work of Medical Women in India.
London, 1929. Oxford University Press and Humphrey Milford. Pp. 194. Price 9s.

THIS account of the work of medical women in India succeeds in being extremely interesting. Not only is the tale it has to tell unfolded with a sense of development that is almost dramatic, but the excellent plan of the book makes it really satisfactory for study. A great deal of careful research work has been carried out and this is reproduced with a balanced judgment, possible only to critical minds possessed of previous and not inadequate experience in relation to the facts. While perpetually conscious of the dead weight of ignorance and poverty that has to be overcome, and of the topographically small range of a successfully planted organization, the authors look for great things in the future. They betray a beguiling enthusiasm for efforts to bring preventive medicine into the very centre and origin of home life—by means of maternity, child welfare, and health visitors' work. One reads, therefore, not only of the beginnings of medical relief for Indian women, but of plans for its much more complete and far-reaching organiza-

tion. In theory these up-to-date medical women have brought preventive medicine almost to the point reached in Great Britain; but, 92 per cent. of the population of India live in villages, and a glance at the map provided shows how few and far between, and nearly all in big towns, are the Zenana Hospitals.

The first chapter, entitled "The Field of Work," contains a clear and well-informed statement of the condition of women and infants in India as a whole. At the last census in 1921 only 21 per 1,000 women were literate; shortage of girls is one of the evidences of infanticide which, it is mildly stated, "probably still persists in some parts of the country." Lack of care in nursing girl as compared with boy babies is another. The tragic position of childless wives and Hindu widows is mentioned, and it is shown how early marriage and *purdah* hamper education and advance. Early marriage is stated not to be followed by cohabitation till after puberty, and pregnancy not to occur for another year or two. New legislation is trying to improve these customs. Consanguineous marriage is avoided by the system whereby marriage is forbidden within a group formed by descent from a common ancestor; but a wife is considered to become one of her husband's group so that her